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~~EASTERN~~

F.O.  
371

1947

PALESTINE

FILE NO. 48

PP. 8944 - 9207

CLOSED

UNTIL

1978

61829

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1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	

Reference:

**FO 371 / 61829**

442	30047	Palestine EASTERN	E 8944/G 2
E 8944/48/9 31/9		<u>Jewish illegal immigration</u>	
Bucharest 1030			
Received 26 Sep. Received 27 Sep.			
Last Paper. 8912 <del>E 8944</del>		(Minutes.) <i>27/9</i>	
References. E 8944/48/9			
(Print.)			
(How disposed of.) B) 11 P			
61829			
(Action completed.) <i>27/9/9</i>	(Index.) <i>up</i>		
Next Paper.			

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1	1	2			

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Reference: FO 371 / 61829

Cypher/OTP

E 8944

27 SEP 1947  
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

3

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Holman  
No. 1030

No. 1050 D. 5.13 p.m. September 26th, 1947.  
September 26th, 1947. R. 7.25 p.m. September 26th, 1947.

Repeated to Sofia  
Angora  
Jerusalem  
British Middle East Office Cairo  
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean

SSSSS

## IMMEDIATE

SECRET

My telegram No. 1000.

## Jewish illegal immigration.

I am informed on reliable information that arms and explosives were taken in luggage of group leaders of these illegal immigrants.

2. Same source reports that armed resistance to boarding parties of the Royal Navy is contemplated and that 50 trained group leaders will lead it.

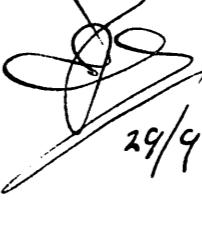
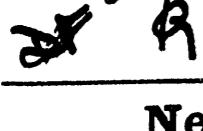
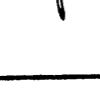
Foreign Office please pass to Angora, Jerusalem,  
British Middle East Office Cairo and Commander-in-Chief  
Mediterranean as my telegrams Nos. 25, 47, 14 and un-  
numbered respectively.

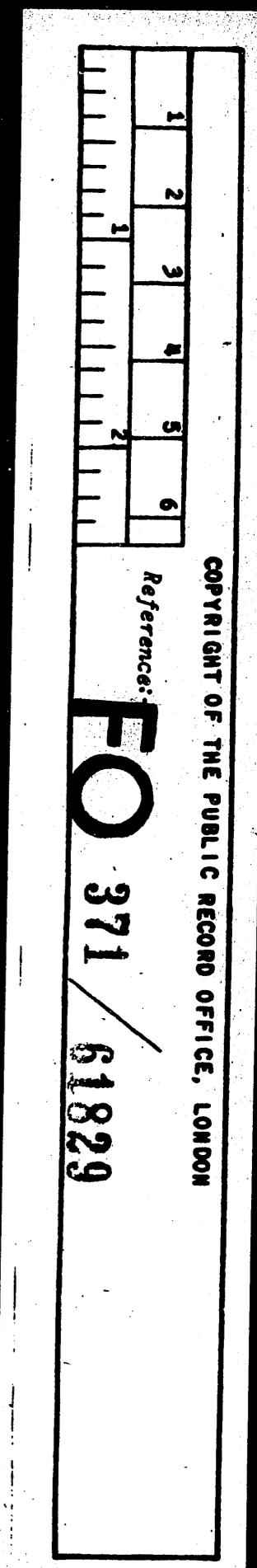
[Repeated to Angora and British Middle East Office  
Cairo and copies sent to Colonial Office Telegraph  
Station and War Registry Admiralty for repetition  
to Jerusalem and Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean]

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Reference: EO 371 64829

	Palestine	E8984	/G
473 1947	EASTERN	29 Sep 1947	4
E 8984/48/31/C	S. S. Pan York		
Paris 926	Rptre Paris to 18 to Algiers.		
dated 27 Sep Received 29 Sep	Last Paper.	(Minutes.)	
E8944		Telegram sent to Tunis and Algiers and another to Sfida and Bichkek on E 8639	 29/9
References.	(Print.)		
	(How disposed of.)		
2) Inf	Sept. 29.		
(Action completed.)	(Index.)		
			
Next Paper.			
	30047 F.O.P.		



E

green  
E8984

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM PARIS TO AIGIERS

23 SEP 1947 5

Mr. Ashley Clarke  
No.18

D. 1.46 p.m. 27th September, 1947

27th September, 1947 R. 6.10 p.m. 27th September, 1947

Repeated to Foreign Office No.926

.....  
IMPORTANT

SECRET

Foreign Office please pass to Algiers important  
as my telegram No.18.

The S.S. Pan York, owned by the F. and B.  
Shipping Co., Panama, which we suspect may be used  
for carriage of illegal immigrants to Palestine,  
is now on her way to Philippeville having left  
Bordeaux where she loaded 750 tons of fuel oil  
on the 24th September.

2. We shall be glad of any information  
you can obtain about the intended future movements  
of this ship. You may think it as well to warn  
the local authorities to keep a watch on her.

[Repeated Important to Algiers].

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RECORDED IN G.B.

DEPT.

23 SEP 1947

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6

Group . . . . . FO

Class . . . . . 371

Piece . . . . . 61829

Following document(s) retained in the

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E9016/48/31

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61829

264

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7  
E. 9052

1947

PALESTINE

OCT 1947

Registry  
Number E 9052/48/31FROM F.O. Minster  
No. W. Clayton  
Dated 23 Sept  
Received in Registry Oct 1.Prevention of Illegal Immigration, Future Policy

Requires problem of whether M.G. are to continue to try to stop illegal immigration should decisions be made to withdraw from Palestine, during period of association and continuation of withdrawal,

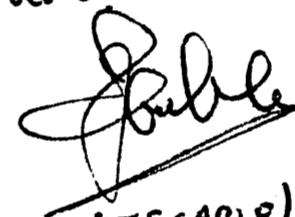
Last Paper

9016

References

(Minutes.)

I understand that this question will be referred to the Ministerial Committee on Illegal Immigration



(C.J.E.CABRB)

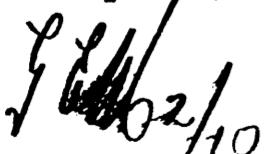
2/10

J.W. OCT. 3

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)



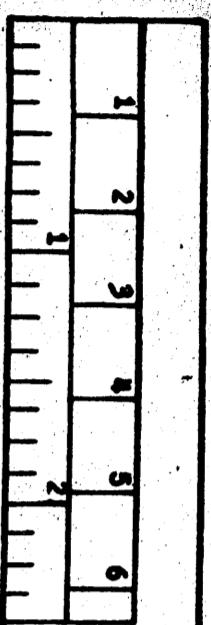
(Index)



Next Paper

9069

38538



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Reference: FO 371 / 61829

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Minutes

inter

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8  
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E. 9052

E. Dept.

OCT 1947

One problem which is agitating the military (and naval) minds at the moment is whether we shall continue to try to stop illegal immigration if we announce our intention to withdraw from Palestine during the interim period between the announcement & the completion of withdrawal.

Can you enlighten me at all?

Alfrey  
23/9

The Official Committee on Illegal Immigration into Palestine are working on the assumption that we shall have to continue our measures to control Jewish Illegal Immigration, for a period of some months at least after the announcement of our intention to withdraw from Palestine. It seems likely that the bulk of the illegal immigrants intercepted off the Palestine coast will be taken to Cyprus, where there is still room for 15,000 more of them. We shall not abandon our policy of "refoulement", in spite of the reverse ~~of~~ <sup>not</sup> this policy received at the hands of the French Government; but, we shall not send people back to the country of embarkation unless we have assurances from the

Government/

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Reference:

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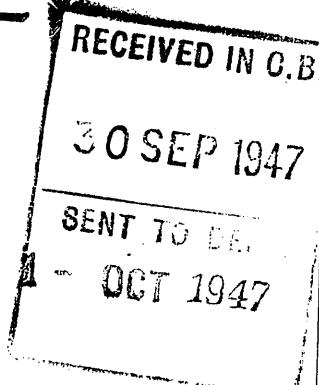
Minutes.

Government concerned that we shall be able to disembark the Illegal Immigrants forcibly.

It would seem that, if no agreed solution is found by the Jews and Arabs as a result of our announcement, we shall have to proceed with our withdrawal and that, at a given moment during the operation, we shall cease to have the necessary organisation on the spot to stop Illegal Immigration. Alternatively, if the Jews and Arabs should agree on a solution which permitted further substantial Jewish Immigration, we should be able to increase the Jewish quota during our remaining tenure of authority, thereby reducing illegal immigration.

J.G.S. Beith  
25th September 1947

And we do not  
put great hopes  
on this policy  
now.



89

So long as we remain in authority in Palestine we must presumably take all practicable steps to prevent and discourage illegal immigration. But this is ~~for the time being~~. If the military authorities want a definite ruling, I think the question should be referred specifically to the Illegal Immigration Committee.

J. G. S. Beith  
25th September 1947

We have had a preliminary discussion with C.O. I agree with Mr Gason's minute. So long as we are administering Palestine, illegal immigration adds to our

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FO 371 / 61829

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1					2	

## Minutes.

our difficulties & dangers,<sup>9</sup> &  
should continue to be stopped.

The CO's office should ask  
the Official Cttee on Illegal  
Immigration for a definite  
ruling. In anticipation of such  
a request CO ~~are already~~ will  
<sup>begin to</sup> now draft a reply.

BAB:Brumors

27.9

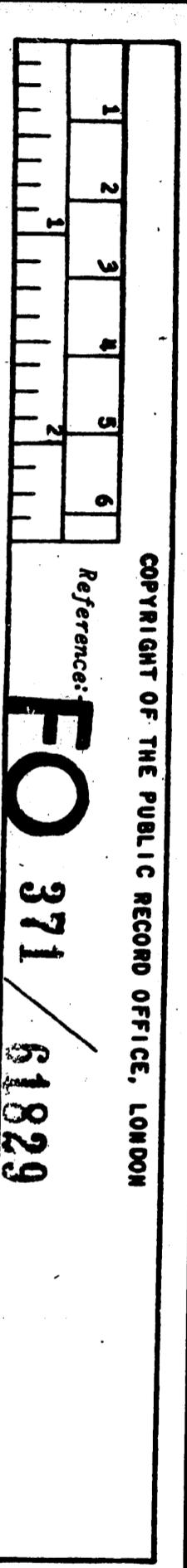
I have asked Admiralty  
to start the ball rolling

W.B.  
29/9

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

		Palestine	E9069/G 10
475	1947	EASTERN	SEP 1947
E9069/48/2 31/6		Pan Crescent	
Belgrade 1041 Dated 27 Sept Received 1 Oct		(Minutes.) She is now in Langtang. <del>2/10</del>	
Last Paper. E9016		(Print.)	
References. E8639/48/5		(How disposed of.) 8) 11P.	
(Action completed.) AF 2/0	(Index.) W.H.		
Next Paper.			

30047 F.O.P.



E9069  
Cypher/OTP

1 SEP 1947  
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM BELGRADE TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Peake,  
No. 1071

27th September, 1947

D: 4.6 p.m. 29th Sept., 1947

R: 7.50 p.m. 29th Sept., 1947

Repeated to Alexandria,  
Bucharest,  
Milan,  
Rome,  
Trieste,  
Commander-in Chief Mediterranean.

A A A A

Confidential.

Your telegram No. 2019. E

S.S. "Pan Crescent"

I raised this question with the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs. This morning, leaving with him an aide mémoire drawing his attention to personal assurances given me by Marshall Tito last December that Yugoslav Government would not assist illegal transit traffic of Jewish immigrants to Palestine.

2. General Velabit took note of what I said and replied that Yugoslav Government did not wish to give any facilities for illegal immigrant traffic. On the other hand he would remind me that this traffic was in extremely skilful hands and that visas were almost invariably obtained by illegal immigrants for destinations other than that to which they were going and were nearly always in perfect order.

3. I replied that what mattered on this occasion was to prevent this ship fuelling at Yugoslav port and to keep track of it while it was in Yugoslav waters.

Foreign Office please repeat to Alexandria, Bucharest Milan and Commander in Chief Mediterranean as my telegrams Nos. 1, 52, 8 and 1 respectively.

[Repeated to Alexandria, Bucharest, and Milan by Foreign Office. Copies sent to War Registry, Admiralty for repetition to Commander in Chief Mediterranean].

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12

Group ..... *FO*

Class ..... *371*

Piece ..... *61829*

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*E9070/48/31*

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Class ..... *371*

Piece ..... *61829*

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transferred to PRO Safe Room\*

*EGO 71/48/31*

and closed until..... *1998*

\*delete as necessary

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Reference:

**EO 371 / 61829**

	Palestine	E9076/G 1 OCT 1947
478 1947	EASTERN	14
E9076 / 48/9 <sup>3/4</sup> C  Paris 930  Dated 30 Sept Received, Oct.	<u>Pan York</u>  Reps Paris to 115 to Marseilles	
Last Paper.  E9071  References.  (Print.)	(Minutes.)  The "Pan York" has now arrived at Marseilles. It does not appear from this telegram that H.M. Embassy fully realize the importance of holding up this ship. I think we should point this out and submit draft telegram accordingly.  J. E. Cable (J. E. CABLE)	2/10
Tel. Paris 2142 Oct 2 Rptd. Marseilles 116 Angora 839 Bucharest 1028 Sofia 1336 Times 54  9/11 P. Oct. 14th.	Paris tel. within is distinctly feeble  Western Dept. J.W. 2/10	H. S. Bent Oct. 2  Baffinland 2. X  Tel sent J. E. Cable 3/10
(Action completed.)  <del>2/10</del>	(Index.)  W.H.	
Next Paper.		

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F.O. 371 / 61829

Cypher/OTP

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Green  
15  
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM PARIS TO MARSEILLES

Mr. Ashley Clarke  
No. 115

1 OCT 1947  
D. 7.49 a.m. 1st October, 1947.  
R. 11.40 a.m. 1st October, 1947.

30th September, 1947.

Repeated to Foreign Office No. 930  
Algiers

///

IMPORTANT

CONFIDENTIAL

S. S. Pan York owned by the F. and B. Shipping Company Panama which we suspect may be used for carriage of illegal immigrants to Palestine left Bordeaux on the 24th Sepember. She was alleged to be making for Philipville but her latest reported position was between Cartagena and the Balearic Islands and her course suggests that she may be making for Marseilles.

2. She is being shadowed by the Navy but you should warn the local authorities to keep an eye on her should she in fact put in at Marseilles.

Foreign Office please pass to Algiers as my telegram  
No. 19.

[Repeated to Algiers.]

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Reference:  
**FO 371 / 61829**

CC15

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Registry  
No. L 9076/48/G

Top Secret.  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Open.

Draft.

~~PARIS~~

Telegram.

No. 2147.

(Date) Oct 2nd

Repeat to:-

Marseille (Immediate)

No. 146

Angora No. 839

Bucharest No. 1028

Sofia No. 1336

Tunis No. 54

C. in - Med.

En Clair.

Code.

Cypher.

Distribution:-

Cabinet

Western Sect. <sup>W 2.10.</sup>  
First

Copies to:- J.B. ext. 2

I.I.P. 4/0/67

BABB

16

F. O.,

3/10 1947

Despatched 12.2 P.M.

Immediate

Confidential

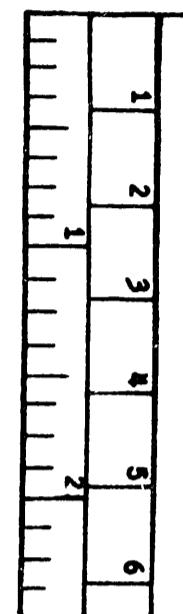
your telegram no. 115 [of 30th September:  
Jewish illegal immigration]

I am seriously concerned  
at the possibility that "PAN  
YORK" may reach Palestine  
waters in the near future  
with as many as 8000 Jewish  
illegal immigrants on board.

Their admission to by-places  
would make grave inroads  
in the camp accommodation there.

"PAN. YORK" may even prove  
to be "unboardable" and succeed  
in beaching herself, thus enabling  
many illegal immigrants to  
land in Palestine.

2. Please inform the  
French Govt. that I ~~feel~~  
attach the greatest importance  
to preventing what is likely  
to be an unprecedented  
influx of illegal immigrants / (4000)



F.O. 371 / 61829

(4000 are already on their way  
in "PADUCAH" and "NORTHLANDS" and  
8000 are threatened by "PAN  
CRESCENT" now at CONSTANZA)

at this critical juncture. ~~where~~  
~~the future of Palestine is sub judice~~  
~~at the United Nations Assembly.~~

You should urge the French  
govt. to take immediate  
and effective precautions to prevent  
any embarkation on this ship  
and ~~the~~ to deny her fuel  
and facilities at Marseilles,  
where she arrived on 2<sup>nd</sup>  
October. Provided you see no  
objection you could add that  
this gives the French authorities  
an opportunity to retrieve the  
most unfortunate effect which  
their handling of the President  
Warfield had on HMG's British  
public opinion.

17

~~Provided you see no  
objection~~

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1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

EO 371 / 61829

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18

R.9076/48/G  
CONFIDENTIAL

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.]

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No. 2142

D. 12.02 a.m. 3rd October, 1947.

2nd October, 1947.

Reposted to : Marseilles No. 146 - Immediate  
Angera No. 839  
Bucharest No. 1028  
Sofia No. 1336  
Tunis No. 54  
Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean

IMMEDIATE

MM

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 115 [of 30th September: Jewish illegal immigration].

I am seriously concerned at the possibility that "Pan York" may reach Palestine waters in the near future with as many as 8,000 Jewish illegal immigrants on board. Their admission to Cyprus would make grave inroads in the camp accommodation there. "Pan York" may even prove to be "unbeardable" and succeed in beaching herself, thus enabling many illegal immigrants to land in Palestine.

2. Please inform the French Government that I attach the greatest importance to preventing what is likely to be an unprecedented influx of illegal immigrants (4,000 are already on their way in "Padusah" and "Northlands" and 8,000 are threatened by "Pan Crescent" now at Constanza) at this critical juncture. You should urge the French Government to take immediate and effective precautions to prevent any embarkation on this ship and to deny her fuel and facilities at Marseilles, where she arrived on 2nd October. Provided you see no objection you could add that this gives the French authorities an opportunity to retrieve the most unfortunate effect which their handling of the "President Warfield" had on His Majesty's Government and British public opinion.

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FO 371 / 34829

<p>F.O. 371 / 61829</p> <p><i>1947</i></p> <p>EASTERN</p> <p><i>E9103 / 48/9 31/6</i></p> <p>Bucharest 1050</p> <p><i>Received 10/6</i> <i>Received 20/6.</i></p> <p>Last Paper. <i>E9046</i></p> <p>References. <i>E8639/48/9</i></p> <p>(Print.)</p> <p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p>8) 11P To Panama 106 20C. Rptd Aurora 838 Bucharest 102 Paris 2141 Sofia 1335 W. Town 1012</p> <p>8) 11P</p> <p>(Action completed.)</p> <p><i>R.W. 3/10</i></p> <p>(Index.)</p> <p><i>b/f</i></p> <p>Next Paper.</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>E9103 /G 19</p> <p>Illegal immigration from Romania</p> <p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>Now over E9104</p> <p><i>J.W.</i> 3/10</p>
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E9103  
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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Holman

No. 1050

1st October, 1947.

D. 12.36 p.m. 1st October, 1947

R. 3.50 p.m. 1st October, 1947

Repeated to Moscow

Sofia

Angera

Caire

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Malta

F F F F

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 1003.

E18

Jewish illegal immigration.

As neither Northlands nor Paducah entered Reumanian waters, there appears to be no grounds on which I can ask the Reumanian Government to take more effective precautions in the future. I am informing Reumanian Government however, of possible arrival in Reumanian waters of S.S. "Pan Crescent" and "Pan York" and asking it to prevent embarkation of Jewish immigrants on them and to refuse bunkers should these vessels call at a Reumanian port for fuel before going from Bulgarian port to pick up immigrants there.

Foreign Office please pass important to Angera Caire and Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Malta as my telegrams Nos. 27, 15 and 3 respectively.

[Repeated to Angera and Caire and copies sent to War Registry Admiralty for repetition to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Malta]

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Registry  
No. 8179  
0103/48/S

Top Secret.  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
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Draft.

PANAMA

Telegram.

No. 106

(Date) October 2nd.

Repeat to:

Angora No 838  
Buckingham No 1027  
Paris No 241  
Sofia No 1335  
Washington No 1012

*B. & F.*  
N.A. Dept. first

H Bart. 2

En Cclair.

Code.

Cypher.

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F. O.,

21

Despatched

3/10 1947.  
7:54 A.M.

Immediate  
Confidential

My telegram no. 98 [of 12th September: Jewish illegal immigration] and my note (E 8450/84/31) to Dr. Ponay of 17th September "PAJUCAH" and "NORTHLANDS"

have embarked approximately 4000 Jewish illegal immigrants from Bulgaria and are expected to reach Palestine waters to-day.

Another Panamanian ship reached Constantinople on 1st October. She is the "PAN CRUSCENT", of 4570 gross registered tons, owned by the F. and B. company of PANAMA. Her New York agent, NATHAN (or NATHANIEL) COHEN, is connected with the now defunct WESTON TRADING COMPANY (owners of "TRADE WINDS", "PRESIDENT WARFIELD" and "NORTHLANDS"), her Marseilles agents (GINESTA and company) have acted for eleven other ships all of which have reached Palestine waters with Jews on board and her Venice agent is a notoriously extreme Zionist called PAUL

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61829

PAUL SCHULMAN. She is not only strongly suspect but also very dangerous, being capable of embarking 8000 Jews and large enough to stand a chance of breaking through naval cordon to beach herself on Palestine shore.

3. Her sister ship, the "PAN YORK" is at Marseilles and may attempt to embark Jews there. Her ownership, New York and Marseilles agents are identical with those of the "PAN CRESCENT".

4. Panamanian Consul-General here is being furnished with full particulars and has promised to telegraph his Govt.

recommending withdrawal of registration from both ships. You should also make strongest representations to Panamanian Govt. urging them to seize this last opportunity of showing friendship to this country and respect for spirit of U.N. resolution urging members of council to this problem is sub judice. We believe he has already made general representations on the subject to his Govt.

5. Please review your representations to Panamanian Govt. in strongest terms and request them to cancel registration of PAN CRESCENT and PAN YORK JB Oct. 2

22

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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E  
Confidential  
Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PANAMA

No.106

2nd October, 1947. D.7.5 a.m. 3rd October, 1947.  
Repeated to Angera No.838

Bucharest No.1027

Paris No.2141

Sofia No.1335

Washington No.10112

IMMEDIATE  
CONFIDENTIAL

My telegram No.98 [of 12th September: Jewish illegal immigration and my note to Dr. Perras of 17th September (E 8450/84/31).

"Paducah" and "Northlands" have embarked approximately 4000 Jewish illegal immigrants from Bulgaria and are expected to reach Palestine waters to-day.

2. Another Panamanian ship reached Constanza on 1st October. She is the "Pan Crescent", of 4570 gross registered tons, owned by the F. and B. Company of Panama. Her New York Agent, Nathan (or Nathaniel) Cohen, is connected with the now defunct Western Trading Company (owners of "Trade Winds", "President Warfield" and "Northlands"), her Marseilles agents (Ginesta and Company) have acted for eleven ships all of which have reached Palestine waters with Jews on board and her Venice agent is a notoriously extreme Zionist called Paul Schulman. She is not only strongly suspect but also very dangerous, being capable of embarking 8000 Jews and large and fast enough to stand a chance of breaking through naval cordon to beach herself on Palestine shore.

3. Her sister ship, the "Pan York", is at Marseilles and may attempt to embark Jews there. Her ownership, New York and Marseilles agents are identical with those of the "Pan Crescent".

4. Panamanian Consul-General here is being furnished with full particulars and has promised to telegraph his Government recommending withdrawal of registration from both ships. We believe he has already made general representations on the subject to his Government.

5. Please renew your representations to Panamanian Government in strongest terms and request them to cancel registration of "Pan Crescent" and "Pan York".

B B B B

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Reference: FO 371 / 61829

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480.	1947	Palestine EASTERN	E9104 /G 24
E9104/48/31/C		<u>Pan Crescent</u>	
Bucharest 1051			
Dated 1 Oct Received 2 Oct.			
Last Paper.  E9103	(Minutes.)		
References.  E8039/48/9.	<i>J.P.</i> 3/10		
(Print.)			
(How disposed of.)			
8) M.P. <i>Det 8th</i>			
(Action completed.)  <i>Am 3/10</i>	(Index.)  <i>W.H.</i>		
Next Paper.			

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*E*  
Cypher/OTP

*Green*  
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

25'

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Holman  
No. 1051

1st October, 1947.

D. 5.50 p.m. 1st October, 1947.

R. 10.10 p.m. 1st October, 1947.

Repeated to : Angora  
Commander-in-Chief,  
Mediterranean  
Jerusalem  
Sofia  
Moscow  
British Middle East Office,  
Cairo

IMMEDIATE

MM

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 1003.

Illegal Jewish immigration.

S.S. "Pan Crescent" arrived Constantza today.

Foreign Office please pass immediately Angora,  
Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, Jerusalem and  
Important to British Middle East Office, Cairo,  
as my telegrams Nos. 28, Unnumbered, 48 and 16  
respectively.

[Repeated Angora and British Middle East Office,  
Cairo, and copies sent to War Registry, Admiralty,  
and Telegraph Section, Colonial Office, for  
repetition to Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean,  
and Jerusalem.]

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Reference: FO 371 / 64829

	Palestine EASTERN	E9108 /G 12 OCT 1941
1081 E9108 /48/31/G	<u>Submission of Mr Kuck's interim reports</u>	26
Venue 922 Dated 2 Oct Received 2 Oct.		
Last Paper. E9104	(Minutes.) Please see E8410 and minute thereon. <i>GC 3/10</i>	
References. E8466/48/9 EY808/48/31		
(Print.)		
(How disposed of.) S) 11 P		
(Action completed.) SF 27/10	(Index.) <i>W.M.</i>	
Next Paper.		

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Reference: FO 371 / 61829

*L*  
Cypher/OTP

*E9108*

*Accts 27*  
DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

FROM VIENNA TO FOREIGN OFFICE 12 Oct 1947

Sir H. Mack.  
No.922

D.10.36 a.m. 2nd October, 1947

2nd October, 1947 R.12.15 p.m. 2nd October, 1947

.....

IMPORTANT

From High Commissioner.

Your telegram No.1320.

Mr. Ruck's interim reports of August 25th, 1947 and September 8th 1947, and his final report dated September 9th 1947 cover recommendations in Rome telegram No.88 Saving.

2. These reports were submitted by Mr. Ruck from Vienna after consultation with members of intelligence organisation and political division.

3. Copies of reports have been passed to French and United States elements.

2 Oct 1947

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61829

272

1947

E

28

E.9114

3 OCT 1947

## PALESTINE

Registry  
Number E9114/48/31.FROM P.D. Fifty year old  
No. Balcony office  
Dated 16021/46A  
Received in Registry by M. Boble  
29 Sept  
3 Oct

Last Paper

9108

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)  
M.R. P.D. Fifty year old  
C.O.  
from M. Boble  
Oct-27

Illegal entry into Palestine of Jews from Czechoslovakia  
 Enclosed copy of telegram no 211 of 8 Sept  
 from IDP Palestine regarding recent unusual  
 entry of immigrants certified by a large  
 number of Jews from Czechoslovakia.  
 Ask for any further details that may  
 come to light in Prague.

(Minutes.)

The first para. of the c.o. letter  
 has been answered by E9357.  
 Action on the second part  
 of this letter could probably best be  
 taken by P.C.O. if they agree.

*M. Boble*  
(CABLE)  
11/10

~~8.0.31/10~~ I don't very much  
 know about immigration laws  
 whether God's are in  
 possession of copies of the  
 Palestine Immigration Ordinance  
 1941 or of the 4 orders referred  
 to. In actual practice, they  
 do not grant visas to

(Action completed)

YEM/10/29/10

(Index)

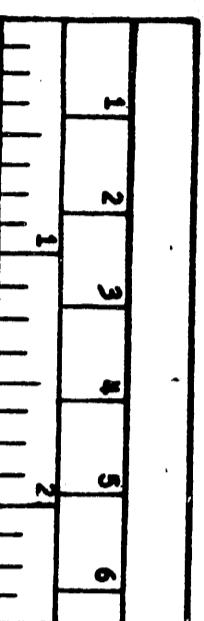
Original

Next Paper

9117

32538

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Reference: FO 371 / 61829

29

**NOTE 3:** permanent entry into Palestine unless specifically authorised to do so by the Palestine authorities in each case. It is not much use telling them that the orders are cancelled if they are not in possession of the texts.

Treaty Dept.

Can you say whether you have ever sent copies of these orders to non-resident officers abroad?

D. L. Red.

14/10/47

We have not distributed them

of the  
D.P.O.D.  
14/10/47

If we are to comply with the request of the Palestine authorities, we should have 140 copies each of the Immigration Ordinance 1941 and of the Orders made under the Ordinance which have now been revoked.

D. L. Red.

15/10/47

J. J. G. (initials)  
P.C.P. 21/10  
Refer to C.G.

J. J. G.  
21/10

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Reference: FO 371 / 61829

**SAVING.**

**9 copies**

From the High Commissioner for Palestine.

Reference No.  
C.S. 605/10

30

To the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date.....**8 September, 1947**

No.....**211** Saving.

**PRIORITY**

**SECRET**

Repeated Prague No. 547 Secret Saving with  
copy of enclosures.

-----  
I enclose a report by the Director of Immigration on the circumstances in which a large number of Jews (probably between 600 and 700) have entered Palestine illegally during the month of June from Czechoslovakia.

I shall be grateful if His Majesty's Ambassador, Prague may be requested through the appropriate channels to furnish any further information regarding this unfortunate affair which may become available on investigation, in order that all possible precautions may be taken against any repetition of the fraud.

2. As regards the question of an equivalent number of certificates from the monthly quotas, please see my telegram addressed to Governor Cyprus No. 187 repeated to you No. 1686 of 6th September.

3. I shall be grateful if all visa-issuing authorities may be notified that the following 4 orders made under para (f) of sub-section (f) of sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Immigration Ordinance 1941 have been revoked:  
Order No. 44 of 1945, Order No. 51 of 1945, the Immigration (Exemption) Order 1946, Order No. 12 of 1946. Copies of these orders are enclosed for ease of reference.

-----

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**FO 371 / 64829**

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COPY

MC/10/47

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

31

Department of Migration

Jerusalem.

19th August, 1947

SECRET

Chief Secretary.

I submit the following report on illegal immigration into Palestine from Czechoslovakia:-

On the 28th, 29th and 30th June, 1947, the S.S. 'Providence', S.S. 'Andrea' and S.S. 'Alexandria' arrived at Haifa Port from Marseilles carrying passengers for Palestine. Among the passengers were 736 persons who were listed in three collective travel documents. The travel documents were issued by the Ministry of National Defence at Prague, Czechoslovakia, on 5th June, 1947. Each document bore the certificate of the Minister of National Defence to the effect that the persons named therein had originally enlisted in the Czechoslovak or His Britannic Majesty's Armed Forces in Palestine and were therefore entitled to exemption from the Immigration Ordinance under the provisions of Exemption Order No. 12 of 1946 published in Supplement No. 2 of the Palestine Gazette No. 1480, page 427, of the 7th March, 1946.

The collective travel documents were further endorsed by Major P.A. Worrall for Colonel, Military Attaché, British Embassy to Czechoslovakia, to the effect that he had been assured by the Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defence that the persons enumerated in the documents were eligible for repatriation to and release in Palestine under the above quoted Exemption Order. The travel documents were visa'd for Palestine by the Visa Section of the British Embassy, Prague, on 17th June, 1947, valid for entry to Palestine before 30th June, 1947. (For information the Exemption Orders relating to persons who originally enlisted in His Majesty's Allies in Palestine or in Mauritius were revoked with effect from 1st July, 1947.).

2. Three days prior to the arrival of the S.S. 'Providence' I had received information from an anonymous source that a transport was on the way from Czechoslovakia carrying ex-Czechoslovak soldiers and their families organised by the Prague Palestine Office, and that few of the persons on board were genuinely entitled to Exemption.

3. On arrival of the ships the collective travel documents were withdrawn and each head of family was issued with a certificate of arrival endorsed for one month's stay in Palestine, and instructed to report to one of the offices of the Department of Migration to apply for registration as an immigrant in terms of the Exemption Order. My officers were warned to closely interrogate each applicant with the

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FO 371 / 64829

/object

39

of ensuring that each applicant proved his identity, his marriage and that the children accompanying him were in fact his children.

As a result of these instructions 42 heads of families with 31 dependents have come forward in the allotted time and have satisfactorily proved their identity and have been registered under the Exemption Order. It is significant that these persons had Czechoslovak passports, evidence of their Czech nationality. The balance of 663 persons have disappeared and are now in Palestine illegally. It is believed that these persons have no passports and are probably not all Czechoslovaks.

4. I have had the names of all heads of families as shown in the collective travel documents checked against the enlistment records kept by the Consul General of Czechoslovakia, Jerusalem, and in every case there is a record of enlistment in Palestine.

It can be presumed that the persons who have not come forward to identify themselves assumed the identity of other persons who actually enlisted in Palestine. It can be presumed also that this gigantic fraud has been cleverly organised. The transport arrangements of 736 persons travelling as a body from Prague to Palestine via Marseilles prove this. To what extent the Czechoslovak authorities in Prague who issued the travel documents, have connived at this fraud it is difficult to say. However, I am of the opinion that the matter should be referred to His Majesty's Ambassador, Prague, for his information and for any observations he may care to make.

5. The Czechoslovak Consul General in Jerusalem has cooperated fully in the matter, and I have had free access to his enlistment records. He has also informed me that one of the bogus persons who arrived in one of these ships applied to him for a passport to return to Czechoslovakia stating that he had assumed the identity of a person who had formerly enlisted in Palestine and who is now in Prague.

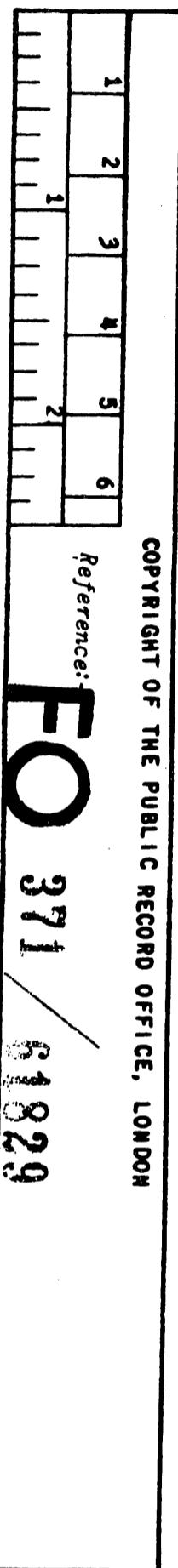
6. I recommend that 663 immigration certificates be deducted from the quota for the period 15th September - 14th October, 1947. This deduction should be divided as to 50% allocated to Cyprus, 25% to Passport Control Officer, Beiflin, and 25% to the Director of Immigration, i.e.

331 - Cyprus: 166 - D.P. camps, Germany;  
166 - Immigration Dept.

7. I leave for your consideration the advisability of publishing this story in order that the detainees in Cyprus and residents of Palestine who are anxiously awaiting immigration certificates for their parents, may know the reason why deductions are being made from the forthcoming quota.

(sgd)

**DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION**



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IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1941.

ORDER, No. 3 of 1947, by the High Commissioner  
under Section 4(1)(f).

33

IN EXERCISE of the powers vested in him  
No. 5 of by paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section 4  
1941. of the Immigration Ordinance, 1941, the High  
Commissioner has ordered, and it is hereby  
ordered, that Order No. 12 of 1946, dated the  
Gaz: 6th March, 1946, shall be amended by the revoca-  
7.3.46, tion of the Schedule thereto and the substitution  
p.427. of the following Schedule therefor:-

" SCHEDULE

CLASS OF PERSONS EXEMPTED.

Members, or discharged members, of any  
Forces of any of His Majesty's Allies, who  
originally enlisted therein in Palestine, and,  
provided that the marriages of the said members  
were contracted before or during the period of  
their service with the said Forces, their wives  
and children under the age of eighteen years".

By His Excellency's Command,

H.L.G. GURNEY

Chief Secretary.

27th January, 1947.  
(1/990/46).

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COPY.

IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1941

34

BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER UNDER SECTION 4 (1) (f).

No. 5 of 1941.

IN EXERCISE of the powers vested in him by paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section 4 of the Immigration Ordinance, 1941, the High Commissioner has ordered, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:-

Citation.

Gaz: 17.1.46,  
p. 55.

Revocation and replacement of the Schedule to the principal Order.

1. This Order may be cited as the Immigration (Exemption) (Amendment) Order, 1947, and shall be read and construed as one with the Immigration (Exemption) Order, 1946, hereinafter referred to as "the principal Order".

2. The Schedule to the principal Order shall be revoked and the following Schedule shall be substituted therefor:-

"SCHEDULE

CLASS OF PERSONS EXEMPTED.

Jewish members of honourably discharged members of any of the armed Forces of any of His Majesty's Allies, who originally enlisted therein in Mauritius voluntarily, and, provided that the marriages of the said members were contracted before or during the period of their service with the said Forces, their wives and children under the age of eighteen years".

By His Excellency's Command,

H.L.G. GURNEY

CHIEF SECRETARY.

27th January, 1947.  
(I/990/46).

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COPY.

## IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1941.

ORDER NO. 4 OF 1947, BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER UNDER SECTION 4(1)(f).

35

NO.5 of 1941. IN EXERCISE of the powers vested in him by paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section 4 of the Immigration Ordinance, 1941, the High Commissioner has ordered, and it is hereby ordered, that Order No. 44 of 1945 shall be amended by the revocation of the Schedule thereto and the substitution of the following Schedule therefor:-

" SCHEDULE

### **CLASS OF PERSONS EXEMPTED.**

Members of discharged members, of the Royal Navy or His Majesty's Army or the Royal Air Force, who originally enlisted therein in Palestine voluntarily, and, provided that the marriages of the said members were contracted before or during the period of their service with the said Forces, their wives and children under the age of eighteen years".

By His Excellency's Command,

(H.L.G. GURNEY)

**CHIEF SECRETARY.**

30th January, 1947.  
(I/990/46).

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COPY

IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1941.

36

ORDER, NO. 5 of 1947, BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER UNDER  
SECTION 4(1)(f)

No.5 of  
1941.

Gaz:25.10.  
45. p.  
1199.

IN EXERCISE of the powers vested in him by paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section 4 of the Immigration Ordinance, 1941, the High Commissioner has ordered, and it is hereby ordered, that Order No. 51 of 1945, dated the 18th October, 1945, shall be amended by the revocation of the Schedule thereto and the substitution of the following Schedule therefor:-

"SCHEDULE

CLASS OF PERSONS EXEMPTED.

Jewish members or discharged members of the Royal Navy or His Majesty's Army or the Royal Air Force, who originally enlisted therein in Mauritius voluntarily, and, provided that the marriages of the said members were contracted before or during the period of their service with the said Forces, their wives and children under the age of eighteen years".

By His Excellency's Command,

H.L.G. GURNEY

CHIEF SECRETARY.

30th January, 1947.  
(1/990/46).

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Reference: FO 371 / 64829



76021/46A.

Enter E  
E. 9114 J 37 E  
Colonial Office,  
The Church House,  
Great Smith Street,  
W.C.1.  
3 OCT 1947

September, 1947.

My dear Cable,

---- I enclose for your information  
--- a copy of a Saving Telegram and its  
enclosures received from the High  
Commissioner concerning the recent  
successful forgery of immigration  
certificates by a large number of  
Jews from Czechoslovakia.

We would be glad to know of  
any further details about the affair  
that may come to light in Prague,  
and would be grateful if you would  
be good enough to notify the visa  
issuing authorities of the revocation  
of certain immigration orders, as  
stated in paragraph 3 of the Saving  
Telegram.

Yours sincerely  
E.N.Fitzgerald  
(E.N.Fitzgerald)

J. CABLE, ESQ.

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(33654) W1.14596/147 75,000 6/47 A. & E.W.Ltd Gp 685

Registry  
No. E 9114 /48/31

T.E.C.

Top Secret  
Secret  
Confidential  
Restricted  
Open.

Draft. ✓

To E.A.  
Mr. Fitzgerald

From

Mr. Tabb

38

7  
28 Oct

Dear Fitzgerald,

In your letter no. 76021/46A of the 27th September, you asked us to notify visa issuing authorities of the revocation of certain orders concerning immigration into Palestine.

2. As I explained to you on the telephone, Passport Control Officers do not issue grant visas for permanent entry into Palestine unless specifically authorized to do so by the Palestine authorities, ~~for~~ to whom such case is referred individually. It ~~seems~~ is therefore, kindly necessary that they should receive detailed amendments to Immigration Orders, the more so since copies of these orders and of the Immigration Ordinance 1941 are not held by them.

3. As we agreed on the telephone

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61829

2/10  
telephone, we will take no action in the second paragraph of your letter under reference. The first paragraph has been answered by Progress note to the Czech authorities, of which a copy was sent to you under our reference E 9357/651/31.

J.E.  
21/10

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) J. E. Cable.

39

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

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OUT FILE

40

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

( E 9114/48/31)

27th October, 1947.

Dear Fitzgerald,

In your letter No. 76021/46A of the 27th September, you asked us to notify visa issuing authorities of the revocation of certain orders concerning immigration into Palestine.

2. As I explained to you on the telephone, Passport Control Officers do not grant visas for permanent entry into Palestine unless specifically authorized to do so by the Palestine authorities, to whom each case is referred individually. It is, therefore, hardly necessary that they should receive detailed amendments to Immigration Orders, the more so since copies of these orders and of the Immigration Ordinance 1941 are not held by them.

3. As we agreed on the telephone, we will take no action on the second paragraph of your letter under reference. The first paragraph has been answered by Prague's note to the Czech authorities, of which a copy was sent to you under our reference E9357/651/31.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) (J.E. Cable)

E. N. Fitzgerald, Esq.,  
Colonial Office.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61829

273

	E	4 E. 9117
1947		3 OCT 1947
	PALESTINE	
<p>Registry Number E9117/48/31</p> <p>FROM F.D. Minute</p> <p>No. M. Reenie.</p> <p>Dated 1 Oct</p> <p>Received in Registry 3 -</p>	<p><u>Illegal Jewish Immigration</u></p> <p>Article entitled "We shall live" given list of radio Broadcast by Jewish Radio as Illegal Jewish Immigration to Palestine.</p>	
<p>Last Paper 9114</p> <p>References</p> <p>(Print)</p> <p>(How disposed of)</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>This is clever and, I imagine, effective propaganda.</p> <p>On 7/10 N.A. Dept.</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> (T.E.CABLE) 3/10</p> <p>This was a nationwide broadcast on, I believe, the third most important network. J.B.C. 4</p>	
<p>(Action completed) <i>J. E. C. 7/10</i></p>	<p>(Index) <i>7/10</i></p>	
Next Paper 9148		

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Reference:

FO 371 / 34829

Entered  
~~Eastern Des't~~ 42  
Mr Bath

We spoke.

T. Remond

H. L. Remond

P. 15 t.

*WHO SHALL LIVE*

E. 9117

(Mutual September 16, 1947)

43

3 9117

For some the great land of America opens, the storm-tossed find the haven, the land of the free. They find understanding, friendship in the first period of adjustment as new Americans.

But, now most, there remains only the dull edge of hope, the candle that flickers somewhere for them. In a thousand ways they seek the land, the land of Israel, Palestine. That hope they draw breath for in a thousand ways. It begins for some, the great hope, that great journey with a night ride in the back of a truck.

"No lights, no noise. Not a sound."

The truck breaks through the dark toward a pier. There, at the appointed hour, the exodus takes place.

"You'll take your place in the hold."

"Excuse me. Two thousand people in the hold? Two thousand!"

"Is there another way?"

"But there are pregnant women and children and..."

"Is there another way?"

In answer for three hundred, two thousand souls! There is enough air for all in the space above, but not enough spaces for all the faces to reach the air.

Then -- motion. The screw of the tired ship is turning.

"We're starting! We're moving!"

"You may be sorry. We may be boarded and turned back."

"I know. I know."

"We may be interned and sent to Cyprus."

"Not?"

"So why did we come?"

"Because, my darling, the prison camp at Cyprus is nearer Palestine."

Hope moves them, makes them wait. Hope freezes them, gives them warmth. Hope drives them into a sweating mass of fear and gives them dignity a little lower than the angels.

And there, too, aboard the ship, amid the oil, the fear, the sweat and hope they also this night say the words:

"Who shall live and who shall die,  
who shall have rest and shall go wandering,  
who shall be tranquil and shall be disturbed?"

It is routine, always routine. The ship is stopped, boarded, turned back. Sent to the island that is nearer Palestine.

There is a pearly island in the Mediterranean, but very much like Dachau, very much like Belsen -- Cyprus.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 31829

-2-

44

"There are no ovens."

"No, no ovens. There is only the sun."

"There is no gas chamber. No flogging."

"No. Only barbed wire. Only officials."

"There are only 17,000 of us. Only a few."

Yes, only a few. And, of these, 750 leave each month for Palestine. Those who arrive tonight, this New Year's eve, have only to wait for two years. Only that. These 17,000 who pace in their cages, waiting, watching the guards, listening to the instructions to the new arrivals:

"Contingent on the right, to the tents! Those on the left, to the huts!"

"Left to the huts, right to the tents! March!"

They nod, having heard them before, as the orders are given.

"No chairs allowed, no tables allowed, no cupboards, no lights. Water is for drinking. The communal wash house is aisle K."

The wire is put back in its place and the sentry paces up and down. And this happens, is happening now, this New Year's eve.

(Sound of hysterical weeping.)

"Chaim, what is it? Stop it! What's the matter with you? Chaim, for the love of God, stop!"

"Thank you."

"What happened?"

"Now I know it. It's all clear now, a matter of initials, a few simple letters that's all."

"Stop it. Tell me what happened."

"I went to the guard to ask him for some water for washing. 'Impossible,' he said. I said, all right, there's an ocean, a whole sea, the Mediterranean, I said. At least let me go swim there, let me wash myself. Stand by me with a gun, I said. Could I swim to Palestine? Can I escape? That's what I said to him. He said no, it was forbidden. So I said, but they swim. I see them swimming every day, sometimes in the morning, sometimes the afternoon. I see men swimming. Who are they?"

"Well?"

"It's only a question of letters, a few letters in the alphabet. We're J.D.'s, they're P.W.'s. We're J.D.'s, Jewish Deportees. We can't go swimming. They can. They're P.W.'s, German prisoners of war. They can! They can! They can!"

"Who shall have rest and who shall go wandering,  
Who shall be tranquil and who shall be disturbed,  
Who shall be at ease ..."

And once a month, the prayer is answered for 750. For them the bars are lowered, the wire breached and they sail to the land they call the homeland

of Israel. And on such a night as it might be tonight, on such an night they sing. On such a night hope soars and belief in man is reasserted, and it would seem that this night, which is a time for recreation and rebirth, is seeing its fulfillment, and we more fortunates who wish them well sit back, relaxed, return with greater ease to the solution of our daily problems.

But wait! Wait! Listen! The thin girl there, whose father, mother, sister, husband -- all -- were killed, waits behind the wire.

"What is the number you hold in your hand?"

"Seven Hundred fifty."

"Seven hundred and fiftieth, yes." Why?"

"You'll not believe what I am about to tell you, but let me tell you anyway. There was a shipment last month. You remember?"

"I remember. Yes, of course. Last month."

"There was a woman aboard. She never heard of you. She was with child. During the voyage she gave birth. A baby girl. During the voyage, before the ship landed. So, instead of 750 last month there was 751."

170

"The authorities took note of the irregularity. They made the proper deduction. This month 749 will be shipped. I had to tell you. Someone had to tell you. I told you you wouldn't believe me but I had to tell you."

On New Year's Day the decree is inscribed:

"Who shall live and who shall die  
Who shall perish by fire and who by water  
Who ..."

Yet the solace of the cage is reserved for the elect, the chosen, the lucky few. For the rest, ~~the~~ survivors of six million burnings, there are other ends. There is another ending for some.

Incident: July 11th, from the French port of Sete a one-funnelled, three-deck craft sets sail. Aboard were 4,500 refugees.

Incident: July 18th. Rammed and captured by naval vessels, the refugees were transferred to three prison ships. Leaflets were placed aboard the ships announcing that the destination of the refugees was Cyprus. It expedited the transferance.

Incidents July 30th. The prison ships stopped at Port ~~Duquesne~~<sup>Bouc</sup>, France. The refugees were ordered to disembark.

"We wish to go to Palestine. We shall not land in Europe as long as we are alive."

Three weeks past with the ships in port. The refugees lived aboard ship taking exercise on decks compartmented by barbed wire.

"You can't tell anything up here. Up here on the deck there is air. Come down stairs. Downstairs is our Auschwitz! Come downstairs."

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## Referenzen

371

Montgomery, August 21st.

46

"Unless the refugees agree to disembark before 13:00 hours of this day the ships will sail for Germany where their passengers will be immediately disembarked."

"We wish to go to Palestine. We shall not land in Europe as long as we are alive."

September 6th. The vessels drew close to Hamburg. All preparations were in readiness for the passengers. Preparations both as to camps and as to landing of the passengers were made.

"Security arrangements have been completed. Soldiers will be sent aboard to herd the Jews on. They will be unarmed. However, rubber truncheons, fire hose and tear gas will be on hand."

September 8th. The passengers disembarked. Force was employed for the recalculations. For some of the younger refugees three soldiers were required to effectuate the unloading.

The newly prepared prison camps are filled. All passengers have made the transfer. The gates are locked. Sentries are at their places. The barbed wire entanglements have been inspected. They are in top order.

On so ~~the~~ ~~the~~, this evening, this night of the New Year, the time for celebration of the birth of the new world. The travelers' voyage is completed. The cycle is ended. It began here with the knothole, the gas chamber. It ends with the barbed wire, the sentries. Their nightmare was no dream. It was reality.

Investigate the problem? It's been done. Draw up recommendations?  
Complain? Let the united anger and hope of people act! It has begun  
to do so.

"Recommended by a majority of the United Nations Palestine Committee that permission be granted to allow the entrance of 150,000 Jews into Palestine during the next two years."

A fact yet? No. But it is beyond the stage of hope. It is one step past hope, but not yet reality.

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#### Reference

EO 371 84829

	Palestine	EASTERN	E9148 /G 47
1947 482			13 OCT 1947
E9148 /48/ 31/C	Paris York		
Masselles 164 dated & DC Received 300	Route Masselles to 115 to Paris.		
Last Paper.  E9108	(Minutes.)  She has now left and H.M.S. Birmingham reports her to be heading S.E. but no further details have yet been received.  Signature (J.E.CABLE) 7/10		
References.  (Print.)	JB Art. 4		
(How disposed of.)  311P Oct 8th			
(Action completed.)  6/10	(Index.)  WPA		
Next Paper.			

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FO 371 / 61829

E9148

3 OCT 1947

48

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

Cypher/OTP

FROM MARSEILLES TO PARIS.

Mr. Kay D. 5.55 p.m. 2nd October, 1947  
No. 115  
2nd October, 1947. R. 7.30 p.m. 2nd October, 1947

Repeated to Foreign Office No. 164

0 0 0 0

IMMEDIATE  
SERET

Illegal Jewish immigration.

Pan York arrived at Marseilles this morning. Is loading cargo and is expected to sail tonight. Local authorities warned.

12 OCT 1947

		Palestine	EQ149 /G
483 1947		EASTERN	13 OCT 1947 49
EQ149 148/eq31/c		<u>Illegal immigration from Romania</u>	
Bucharest 1055			
Dated 2 Oct Received 3 Oct.			
Last Paper.  EQ148		(Minutes.) Now please see E 9246 <i>dc</i> 6/10	
References. EQ29/48/5			
(Print.)			
(How disposed of.)			
S.I.P. Oct 8th			
(Action completed.)  <i>9/10</i>	(Index.)  <i>help</i>		
Next Paper.			

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Reference: FO 371 / 61829

E  
Cypher/OTP

E 9149

3 OCT 1947  
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

50

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Helman.  
No. 1055

D. 12.16 p.m. 2nd October, 1947

2nd October, 1947

R. 2.50 p.m. 2nd October, 1947

Repeated to the High Commissioner Jerusalem

Moscow  
Sofia  
Angera  
C-in-C, M.E.L.F.  
Malta

.....

TOP SECRET

Your telegram No. 995.

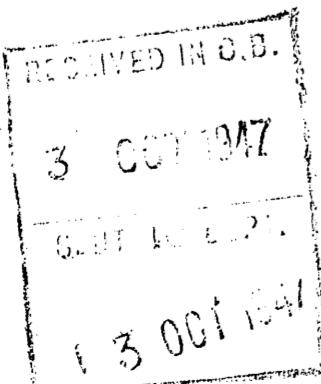
Illegal Jewish immigration.

[Gp. undec. ?Although I] fully realise the importance attached to this question by His Majesty's Government and am aware that any scheme must involve some risk, I must point out that it is impossible to rely on the good faith of Reumanian Government in the matter of illegal immigration and that it would be most unwise and even dangerous to suggest the return to Reumania and disembarkation here by force of any illegal immigrants who may have embarked at Reumanian ports.

2. Apart from complete unco-operative attitude of the Reumanian Government Sulina and Constanza, only seaports to which these transports could be sent are the main arteries of Russian lines of communication and there is no doubt the Soviet High Command would oppose both entry of military manned ship into these ports and would not permit forcible disembarkation by British or Reumanian troops of these immigrants. Serious incidents would accordingly be more than likely.

Foreign Office please repeat to the High Commissioner Jerusalem, Angera and C-in-C. M.E.L.F., Malta as my telegrams Nos. 49, 29 and 4 respectively.

[Repeated to Angera and Copies sent to Colonial Office and War Office for repetition to Jerusalem and M.E.L.F. Malta, respectively].



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51

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group . . . . . *F.O.*

Class . . . . . *371*

Piece . . . . . *61829*

Following document(s) retained in the

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of the Public Records Act, 1958

*E9150/48/31*

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Reference:

**F.O. 371 / 61829**

	Palestine	EQ197 /G 14 Oct 1947
484	EASTERN	52
EQ197 /48/9 31/C	<u>Pan Crescent.</u>	
Bucharest 1064		
Received 3 Oct Received 4 Oct.		
Last Paper. EQ149	(Minutes.) This news could hardly be less encouraging. Southern Dept. R.P. 1/10 4/10	
References. EQ104/48/9		
(Print.)		
(How disposed of.)		
8) I.I.P. Oct. 8th	The Turks are our last hope now! Dr. Benét Oct. 4	
(Action completed.) 24/8/50	(Index.) Help	
Next Paper.		

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Reference: FO 371 / 61829

green

E

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

E9147

53

4 OCT 1947

Mr. Holman.  
No. 1067.

D. 1.58 p.m. 3rd October 1947.

3rd October 1947.

R. 4.10 p.m. 3rd October 1947.

Repeated to: Angora,  
Malta,  
Sofia,  
Moscow,  
Jerusalem.

IMMEDIATE.

CONFIDENTIAL.

My telegram No. 1051.

S.S. Pan Crescent.

Extensive carpentering work is being done in  
this vessel but I have no information as to its nature.

2. A large number of wooden crates have been  
loaded on board. Roumanian Port authorities are  
according all facilities to the vessel and organisers.

3. It is reliably reported that some 6,000 Jews  
will be embarked on this vessel. Some are already  
waiting at Constantza but it is not known whether the  
vessel will call at a Bulgarian port for more  
passengers.

4. It is reported that the vessel will be ready  
to sail October 5th and passengers awaiting at  
Constantza expect to leave on that day.

Foreign Office please repeat to Angora,  
Malta, Jerusalem as my telegrams Nos. 51, 6, and 51  
respectively.

[Repeated to Angora.

Copies sent to the Admiralty for repetition  
to Malta.

Copies sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial  
Office, for repetition to Jerusalem.]

W:W:W:W:W

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<p><i>485</i></p> <p><b>1947</b></p> <p>EASTERN</p> <p><b>E9199 148/9 31/C</b></p> <p><b>Yassine</b></p> <p><b>165</b></p> <p><b>dated 30/9</b></p> <p><b>Received 4 Oct.</b></p> <p>Last Paper.</p> <p><b>E9199</b></p> <p>References.</p> <p><b>E9046 148/9</b></p> <p>(Print.)</p> <p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p><i>8/10</i></p> <p><i>Oct 8/2</i></p> <p><b>Next Paper.</b></p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p><b>E9199 /G</b></p> <p><i>1st OCT 1947</i></p> <p><b>52</b></p> <p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>Par. York has now passed through Straits of Messina, presumably en route for Black Sea.</p> <p><i>6/10</i></p> <p><i>MLP</i></p> <p><b>(Action completed.)</b></p> <p><i>8/10</i></p> <p><b>(Index.)</b></p> <p><i>MLP</i></p>
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Speed 55

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should  
be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

EQ:99

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE, OCT 1947.

Mr. Kay.

D. 6.44 p.m. 3rd October 1947.

No. 165.

3rd October 1947. R. 8.25 p.m. 3rd October 1947.

Repeated to Paris.

IMMEDIATE.SECRET.

Your telegram No. 2142 to Paris.

Pan York arrived Marseilles in ballast. Is  
loading a considerable quantity of feed in cartons.  
These appear to be of American origin and in  
spite of local authorities' assurance to the contrary  
in excess of crew requirements. Local authorities,  
also state that ship has refuelled here but I cannot  
confirm this at present, I have made further  
representations locally today.

0:0:0

4 OCT 1947

S. 100

	Palestine EASTERN	E9200 /G 56
486/1947		
E9200 /4819 31/C	<u>Armenian illegal immigration</u>	
Sofia 124Y		
dated 3 Oct Received 4 Oct.		
Last Paper. E9199.	(Minutes.)	
References. E8912/4819		Now file see E9246 <i>[Signature]</i> 6/10
(Print.)		
(How disposed of.) 8/11P		
		Oct. 8/L
(Action completed.) 9/10	(Index.) H.H.	
Next Paper.		

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Reference: FO 371 / 61829

*K*  
Cypher/OTP

*Green*

*Eq 200*

4 OCT 1947

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

*57-*

FROM SOFIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Sterndale Bennett  
No. 1247

3rd October, 1947.

Repeated to : Bucharest  
Moscow  
Angora  
Jerusalem

D. 5.55 p.m. 3rd October, 1947.

R. 8.35 p.m. 3rd October, 1947.

Commander-in-Chief,  
Mediterranean  
Commander-in-Chief, Middle East  
Land Forces

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram to Bucharest No. 1019.

Jewish illegal immigration.

I consider that there is no chance whatever of Bulgarian Government agreeing to receive back illegal immigrants or acquiescing in any "refoulement" by force.

2. As regards Red Ensign vessel in Black Sea it would of course be illogical for Bulgarian Government to refuse facilities which they profess to be unable to refuse to suspect ships themselves. But I am sure that they would in practice raise all sorts of difficulties and would be encouraged to do so by Russians who would presumably not like the idea of a "snooping" vessel in the Black Sea.

3. If the idea is pursued I assume that Red Ensign vessel would be based on Istanbul (Constantinople) and would come to Bulgarian ports as required more or less simultaneously with any suspect vessel. Red Ensign vessel might on some trips to Bourgas or Varna have legitimate pretext of discharging stores (and even diplomatic bags in certain circumstances) for this Legation but this pretext would not justify indefinite stay at either port or a visit to the smaller port of Balchic. Harbour dues may also be a considerable item.

4. Although for the above reasons scheme does not seem very feasible, suggestion that we were contemplating it might be added spear to Bulgarian Government to stop traffic from Bulgarian ports. Have I your permission to exploit it with them as a possibility ?

Foreign Office please pass to Jerusalem, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F., as my telegrams Nos. 31, 4 and 1 respectively.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office, War Registry, Admiralty, and Duty Signal Officer, War Office, for repetition to Jerusalem, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean and Commander-in-Chief, M.E.L.F., respectively.]

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E

E 9207

LONDON 1947

1947

## PALESTINE

Registry  
Number E 9207/48/31.

FROM

K. Kelenen  
No. World Literary

Service

Dated

Received  
in Registry Oct 2

~ 6

Product Office, New York, Hungarian Press.  
 Encloses English translation of article  
 published in New York Hungarian paper  
 AZ ENTER on 13 Sept giving too much  
 information on the Exodus affair, asks  
 F.O. to supply statement to give a lie  
 to these accusations, which he will translate  
 and send to New York.

Last Paper

9200

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

K. Kelenen  
World Literary  
Service  
Oct. 14

Prop. Chancery  
W.Y.C.  
with ref  
Oct 15

(Action  
completed)*P.B. 10/11*

(Index)

*Signed*

Next Paper

E 9233

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61829

WORLD LITERARY SERVICE LTD.

22 VALE COURT, W.9

Telephone: CUN 1764  
Establ. 1937.

E 507  
London, 1947.

October 2nd 1947.

Dear Sir,

I beg to enclose the English translation of an article published in the New York Hungarian paper AZ EMBER (MAN) on the 13th of September, 1947.

Obviously the Editor of the paper had been misinformed by sources only too well known and I would like to have an authoritative statement published, to give a lie to these accusations.

There are hundreds of thousand readers of Hungarian origin in the USA, among them some very influential people and the circulation of the paper is considerable in countries outside the USA., especially in South America.

If you will be good enough to send me a statement I shall gladly translate it into Hungarian and send it to New York immediately.

I am,

Sir,

yours faithfully,

K. Kelemen

K. KELEMEN.

London Correspondent AZ EMBER (New York)

The Secretary in Charge,  
Foreign Office,  
Whitehall.

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The whole civilised world heard with deep consternation and bleeding heart of the disgraceful atrocities, surpassing in cruelty all human imagination, that have been committed against those unhappy Jews who had survived the horrors of the gas chambers. It was not enough, so it would seem, to have slaughtered with beastly brutality six million men, women and children. It was not enough, that they were driven out or dragged away from their homes robbed of all their possessions, that having suffered the tortures of hell, their tears - shed for the loss of parents, children and relatives - not dried yet, broken in body and spirit they must now look for new haven. All this seems to be not enough yet. Most of the homeless Jews look upon Palestine as their future home and their dreams frustrated by the ruthless attitude of the British Government who are barring their only way of escape to them. They are being shipped from one port to the other, they are removed from Palestine by armed forces and in Cyprus concentration camps, set up to the pattern of the German horror camps, Jewish blood and tears are shed again in a never ending flow.

Lately these unhappy Jewish men, women and children were dragged back to Germany by the force of arms. Those who did not want to return to Adolf Hitler's Reich, where blood still smells to heaven, were cruelly tortured and beaten up by British soldiers and dragged by them to German territory - to the delight of Nazi beasts there lying in wait and watching with cruel laughter, how these poor creatures, having miraculously escaped Hitler's hellish gas chambers and the piles of burning human flesh, are now exposed to new sufferings.

It is heartbreaking, this non-stop torment, this barbarism which scorns all human feeling, that has become the lot of these innocent, harmless people. With horror and immense bitterness we have to raise the question: Is it not enough yet? Has Nazism and their Hitlerite doctrine not been stamped out yet for these unfortunate people, who are condemned to live the lives of beasts, for the only sin that they have been born to belong to and to share the fate of the Jewish community? How long is to continue this industry of cannibalism, over which not the Nazi emblem is hoisted now, but the pirate ensign of the British Empire?

Why and how long is the civilised world prepared to look on while on different parts of the globe, but especially on

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- 2. -

territories under British rule, the work of henchmen, relinquished by Hitler against his better reason and judgement, is carried on undisturbed?

And how long is America going to tolerate the machinations of British Nazis, allowing them to treat people how they like, and do this with a sneer on their faces everywhere, where the hosts of these homeless, tortured, distressed people appear.

How long, we must ask again and again with broken heart. And when will the gates of America be thrown wide open to receive this unfortunate brethren of ours?

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**FO 371 / 61829**

Registry  
No. E 9207/48/3k

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~~Secret.~~  
~~Confidential.~~  
~~Restricted.~~  
Open.

J.-E.C.

Draft.

K. KELEMEN

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(2/47) (14728) Wt. 11489—144 250m 5/47 G.S.St.

+1 OUT FILE 10pc  
-14 fm (9)

.62

81,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Berlin to refer to your letter of the 2nd October about an article published in the New York Hungarian paper AZ EMBER (MAN) on the subject of H.M.G.'s decision to send to the British Zone of Germany the Jewish illegal immigrants who, having been returned to their place of disembarkation in the South of France, refused to land there.

2. The following factual account of the events which led up to this decision and / of

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Reference: FO 371 61829

of the actual disembarkation  
at Hamburg may be of assistance  
to you.

63

[Here insert from (A) to  
(B) of letter sent to  
correspondents nos 1-4 on E 8626]

8. The facts about the  
disembarkation at Hamburg are as  
follows:

[Here insert from (A) to  
(B) of letter to C.R.O. in  
E 8626]

I am etc.

J.B Oct. 7

(Sgd) B.A.B. Remond.

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FO 371 / 81829

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64

E 9207/48/31.

FOREIGN OFFICE,  
S.W. 1.

14th October, 1947.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bevin to refer to your letter of the 2nd October about an article published in the New York Hungarian paper AZ Ember (Man) on the subject of His Majesty's Government decision to send to the British Zone of Germany the Jewish illegal immigrants who, having been returned to their place of disembarkation in the South of France, refused to land there.

2. The following factual account of the events which led up to this decision and of the actual disembarkation at Hamburg may be of assistance to you.

3. On the 18th July 4,554 Jews were intercepted on board the s.s. President Warfield in an attempt to enter Palestine illegally. They had left France with forged Colombian visas of destination, in contravention of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and Load Lines. This ship of under 2,000 tons was far too small to carry anything like 4,500 people in safety, let alone in proper conditions of sanitation. The French authorities had instructed the ship not to leave, but she cut her hawsers.

4. The case of the President Warfield represented a particularly flagrant example of the activities of those responsible for organising the Jewish illegal immigration traffic. As you will be aware, His Majesty's Government and the Government of Palestine have for some time been gravely embarrassed in their exercise of the Palestine Mandate and in the maintenance of peace and internal security in Palestine by this Jewish illegal immigrant traffic. They are bound to enforce the present immigration quota of 1,500 a month for Jews and they would have no justification, in the present interim period before the United Nations make a recommendation regarding the future of Palestine, for altering this quota. Immigration policy is of cardinal importance to the Palestine problem and all concerned should await the decision of the United Nations in this regard. Nevertheless, the organisers of the illegal immigrant traffic are at present trying to exceed the quota with the object of upsetting the balance of population in the country, and are thereby aggravating an already tense and delicate situation which has led to bloodshed between Arabs and Jews.

5. In view of the exceptional size of the President Warfield's contingent and of the illicit manner in which they left France, His Majesty's Government had no alternative but to arrange for the return of the illegal immigrants to their country of embarkation, France. It had become evident that the policy of sending illegal immigrants to camps in Cyprus, where they qualify for inclusion in the legal immigration quota to Palestine, had only served to encourage the stream of illegal immigrants which has for months been flowing from Eastern Europe via countries with a Mediterranean seaboard.

/It

L. Kelemen Esq.,  
World Literary,  
Service Limited.

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Reference: FO 371/34829

It is noteworthy that a large part of this stream consists, not of refugees, but of Jews who have been encouraged by the organisers of the traffic to leave their homes in Eastern Europe. The organisers select the immigrants with little regard to humanitarian considerations. The older people, perhaps with relatives in Palestine, who would qualify on those grounds are regularly passed over in favour of young men and women and expectant mothers (the latter most unsuited to face the appalling conditions of overcrowding in which they are sent to Palestine). Parents are encouraged to send their children on the understanding that they are to be legal immigrants. A case has just arisen where a number of Hungarian parents have asked to have back their children from amongst the President Warfield party when it arrives in the British Zone; they were misled by the organisers of the traffic to think that their children were to be admitted on the legal quota.

6. To revert to the events following the return of the 4,500 illegal immigrants to France. The British transports were left at Port de Bouc for three weeks in the hope that their passengers would accept the French offer of hospitality and disembark in France. When it became clear that the illegal immigrants would not agree to land and that the French Government would not constrain them to do so, it was necessary to find a destination for them under British jurisdiction. In the light of the general situation in regard to the illegal immigrant traffic which I have briefly explained above, His Majesty's Government were quite clear that it would be undesirable to send the illegal immigrants back to Cyprus. They considered a number of destinations in British Colonial territory but in no case was it possible to arrange adequate accommodation at short notice for such a large number of people. It was therefore reluctantly decided to send the illegal immigrants temporarily to the British Zone of Germany, the only place where accommodation could be provided at short notice, and to continue to press the French Government to receive them back through the British Zone.

7. There has been much criticism of the decision to send these Jews to Germany. For the reasons given above, no alternative destination was available. It should be remembered, moreover, that this territory is administered by His Majesty's Government and that the illegal immigrants will be looked after by the British military administration and not by Germans. Moreover, as you will clearly see, there was absolutely no need for them to go to Germany at all. They have spent three weeks waiting off a French port with every facility and encouragement to go ashore, both from the French and British side. They, and those who inspire them, have chosen instead to make a political point of refusing to land, thereby causing His Majesty's Government to send them to a destination which is unwelcome to everyone concerned. It is, moreover, the hope of His Majesty's Government that it will now be possible for the illegal immigrants to pass through Germany into France.

8. The facts about the disembarkation at Hamburg are as follows:

(a) The majority of the passengers on the first ship (the "Ocean Vigour") disembarked peacefully, but a few who resisted had to be carried off. Of the 1412 passengers on board this ship, one sustained a slight head wound.

(b) All the passengers from the second ship (Empire Rival) disembarked peaceably and no force was employed. A time-bomb was later discovered on board this ship.

(c) The passengers on the third ship (the "Runnymede Park") resisted violently, taking the initiative in attacking the soldiers

/who

66

who were waiting for them to land. It was necessary to employ hoses and, on some occasions, truncheons. Of the 1485 persons on board, 15 men and 7 women were injured, the worst cases being an injured head and a broken wrist.

To sum up, 4294 persons were disembarked, many of them forcibly, yet only 23 were injured and none of these seriously, in spite of the violent resistance offered by them.

I am,  
SIR,  
Your obedient Servant,

(Sqd-) B. A. B. Burrows.

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9207 48 21

4 NOV 1947

INDEXED

London, 1947.

October 31st.

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END

The Under Secretary of State,  
Foreign Office,  
London, S.W.1.

Sir,

Ref. No. E 9207/48/31.

I beg to apologise for the delay, caused by an attack of influenza, in acknowledging with thanks receipt of statement made on behalf of Mr. Secretary Bevin, referring to the transportation of Jewish immigrants to Germany.

The statement I have forwarded to my paper AZ EMBER /MAN/ in New York, for publication.

I am,

Sir,

Yours faithfully,

*H. Nelesman*

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Reference:

FO 371 / 64829

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